

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for this amendment can be found on page 10, lines 8-10 of the specification and Figure 3. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and following remarks.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

1. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yokochi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,123,216). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and respectfully submits that the claims as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from the cited reference.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

A resin tank comprising: a tank body for reserving a liquid, the tank body being made of resin, the tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body . . . .

Applicant respectfully submits that Yokochi et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed subject matter and therefore respectfully requests this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

According to the Office Action, Yokochi et al. discloses "a resin tank . . . with a hold that is circular . . . to fit the pipe sealing member . . . which closely fits the hole and has a pipe installed . . . The hole for mounting of sealing member 63 is round and the cross-section [is] shown in Figure 7." Office Action dated 4/10/06, pp. 2-3. Yokochi, however, does not disclose

“[a] tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Yokocho et al. describes “the second storage tank 1B is provided with circular holes 38 and 39.” See Yokocho et al., col. 4, lns. 46-47. As clearly shown in Figures 2, 3 and 7 of Yokocho et al., hole 35 is formed by the wall of storage tank 1A and holes 38 and 39 are formed by the wall of second storage tank 1B. However, holes 35, 38 and 39 of Yokocho et al. are not “formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Applicant submits that Yokocho et al. does not render unpatentable the claimed subject matter as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from Yokocho et al. Further, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 4-6, which are directly or indirectly dependent from amended independent claim 1, are also patentably distinct from Yokocho et al. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

#### **CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

2. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been rejected, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yokocho et al. in view of Bull et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,897,533). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are patentably distinct from the cited references, taken either alone or in combination.

The Office Action alleges that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the use of a pipe sealing member . . . as disclosed by Bull et al. in the tank disclosed by Yokochi et al.” (See Office Action, page 4).

Bull et al. is directed to “grommets, bushings and the like which may be mounted within a wall or panel to receive and retain another member therein against relative movement.” (Bull et al., col. 1, lns. 9-12). The Office Action does not allege that Bull et al. discloses “[a] tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1. Applicant has reviewed Bull et al. and respectfully submits that the reference does not teach, disclose or suggest “[a] tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Thus, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from Yokochi et al. alone or in combination with Bull et al. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 2 and 4-6, which depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1, also define patentable subject matter. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

3. Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fish et al. (of record) in view of Bull et al.

Similar to above, the Office Action alleges that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the use of a pipe

sealing member . . . as disclosed by Bull et al. in the tank disclosed by Fish et al.” (See Office Action, page 5).

Again, the Office Action does not allege that Fish et al. discloses “[a] tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1. Applicant has reviewed Fish et al. and respectfully submits that the reference does not teach, disclose or suggest “[a] tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Thus, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from Fish et al. alone or in combination with Bull et al. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 2-6, which depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1, also define patentable subject matter. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

4. Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yokocho et al., or Yokocho et al. and Bull et al., or Fish and Bull et al., in view of Clevenger et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0158073 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and respectfully submits that the claims as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from the cited references.

As stated above, Applicant submits that Clevenger et al. does not render unpatentable the subject matter of the claimed invention. Namely, Clevenger et al.. does not remedy the deficiency of Yokocho et al. and/or Bull et al. and/or Fish et al. in that Clevenger et

al. does not does not disclose, teach or suggest “[a] tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Because claim 7 is directly dependent on amended independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection applied to claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Yokocho et al., or Yokocho et al. and Bull et al., or Fish and Bull et al., in view of Clevenger et al. is respectfully requested.

5. Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yokocho et al. or Yokocho et al. and Bull et al. (or Fish et al. and Bull et al.) in view of the prior art cited by Applicant. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and respectfully submits that the claims as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from the cited references.

Applicant submits that the prior art cited by Applicant does not render unpatentable the subject matter of the claimed invention. Namely, the prior art cited by Applicant, does not remedy the deficiency of Yokocho et al. and/or Bull et al. and/or Fish et al. in that the prior art does not does not disclose, teach or suggest “[a] tank body having at least a circular hole formed by a stepped portion that connects with an inside of the tank body, the stepped portion having the same thickness as the tank body,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Because claim 8 is directly dependent on amended independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection applied

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to claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Yokocho et al. or Yokocho et al. and Bull et al. and/or Fish et al. and Bull et al. in view of the prior art cited by Applicant is respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

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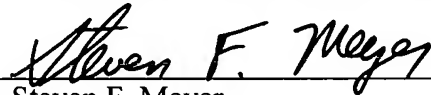
**AUTHORIZATION**

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 5095-4082. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: July 6, 2006

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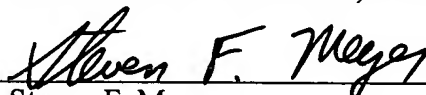
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